



THE
CONNECTION
November 2025
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome Associate Pastor Kathy McKinley

October 19 marked the beginning of the ministry of our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Kathy McKinley (pictured here with her husband, Mac). She will help out in Congregational Care and worship on many Sundays. Kathy will also work with me in being the pastor on call on Fridays and Saturdays (we will rotate). If someone is having a surgery on a Friday or Saturday, or there is some other emergency, the pastor-on-call will handle it. I'm thankful for Kathy's assistance to me in this area of ministry.



We are also thankful for David Smith will continue to lead and teach the Youth on Wednesday nights. Kathy Will also assist with planning of Youth events. There is also a great team of adults who are helping with out youth program.

Medical Clinic Mission Project Volunteers

November 22-23 will see an important mission come to Crestview. The Crestview Nazarene Church is sponsoring a Remote Area Medical mission that weekend. This is such a large project, they are relying on volunteers from sister churches so we will be supporting it. The clinic provides free health care to those who need it in the areas of dental, vision, and medical care.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.ramusa.org/events/crestview-florida/>

On that webpage, there is a red **VOLUNTEER** button in the top right. Click on that to register to volunteer. I've already registered as a "Resource (Other)" but

I will help out wherever they need me.

Because of the large numbers of people who need this service, volunteers are needed to help out. In fact, even though the event starts on Saturday morning, since it is first come first served, people start lining up as early as midnight on Friday night so volunteers will even be needed through the night. The event will be held at Crestview High School. I'm planning on supporting and being a part of this and I encourage my church family to help as well.

The event will be recognized at the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on that Sunday night.

Streaming Services

I mentioned last month that we have been making some changes for 9:45. All of the equipment has arrived and is being installed. We hope all the new changes will be implemented by the time you read this (or soon).

I am so thankful for the donations which have made this upgrade possible.

We are still in need of volunteers to help on a rotating basis with either the sound or the video at either the 9:45 service or the 11 AM service. If you are interested in learning more or in being trained, please speak to me or Warren Caruso.

Stained Glass and Christmas

The next auction will be in November and will conclude at the CommUNITY Dinner. This group will be more numerous and will feature more smaller pieces which may make excellent Christmas gifts. Photos will be posted on the church website and Facebook soon.

We will have a larger auction with bigger pieces in March. There are some amazing pieces coming!

Some may be thinking.... I wish I could have at least something from this 100 year old stained glass, and we want to make that happen. In the past, we have given out wooden ornaments at the Christmas Eve service. This year, our goal is to will give out an ornament to every person who attends. These will be made of epoxy and will have small stained glass pieces in them. These will be free so that all may share in this amazing project.

As of this writing, the first two auctions have raised over \$7,000, and the money has gone to missions and to worship technology. The proceeds for the November auction will go to the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds for the March auction will go to debt reduction.

My Hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness.

-Pastor Ronnie

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FMC Study Library

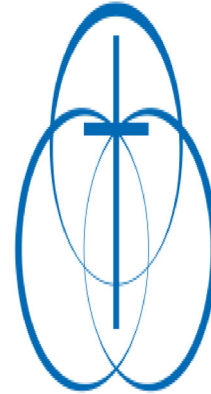
Calling all Small Group teachers and those who would like to teach!

We have created a cozy space to peruse our available study materials in our new STUDY LIBRARY. We have a desk to spread things out on and loads of books & videos to inspire you. You can access the Study Library during normal business hours and is located at the end of the office hallway next to the elevator.



District Church Council

Our District Charge Conference will be held on Sun, **Nov 2** from 5-6:30PM at First Methodist Church, [88 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs](#).
Pastor Ronnie will be presiding.
All are welcome!



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY DINNER

It's gonna be quite the evening!
Join us for our 'Benevolence Christmas Potluck' themed CommUNITY Dinner on Wed, **Nov 19** in the CRC.
Ham & rolls will be served.
We'll be having an old fashioned potluck and are asking for folks to bring their favorite holiday side dish and/or dessert!
Serving begins at 5:30PM.



Plan on adopting a Christmas Angel, one of our elderly/shut-ins, and don't forget to bring an angel ornament (unbreakable) for the angel tree!

The CRC lobby will also hold our Winter Studies Book Fair, so come peruse our books and sign up for a study— we're saving you a seat.

We'll also wrap up another round of our Stained Glass Auction, which will have begun on Sun, Nov 16.

Youth & Kids St. will meet at 6:00PM. Church Council & Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30PM.

All proceeds from the auction and dinner will go to our Benevolence Ministry.

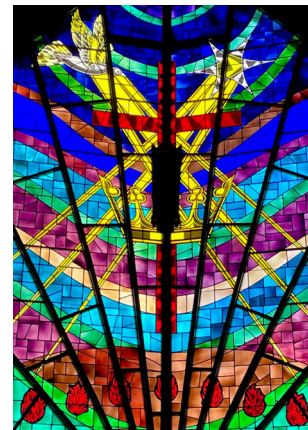
Angel Tree

This year's Benevolence Christmas Tree in the CRC entry during Community Dinner on Wed, **Nov 19** will host a flurry of angels lovingly chosen to represent our elderly that are home bound or in nursing homes. What a blessing to be remembered by your church family when you can no longer attend church services or special events. Please consider bringing an angel ornament (unbreakable) to decorate the tree and, most importantly, adopting an angel to bless this Christmas season.



Stained Glass Auction

We will be holding a sealed bid auction **Sun, Nov 16 through Wed Nov 19**. You may fill out a bid sheet for a piece and drop it in the box for that piece. All pieces are numbered. No one will see bids until the boxes are opened and bids sorted. The Trustees have placed a minimum bid on each piece. You may bid any time between Sun Nov 16 through Wed Nov 19 at the CommUNITY Dinner. During office hours (Mon, Tues or Wed) bring bids to the office (you may also call Angie Arnold, Church Administrator). Bidding stops at 6:30PM after the Dinner, when our Administrative Council meets. Only one bid is necessary, but if you decide you want to increase your bid, you may add another bid. Whoever has the highest bid will win. You do not need to be present to win. If you are not at the Council meeting, we will contact you. We will have photos of each piece on our website. You may also examine each piece in the Crossroads Center on Sunday and Wednesday Evening. If you would like to examine a piece during office hours Mon-Wed, please come by the office.



For more details visit [Stained Glass | First Methodist Church of Crestview](#)

Crestview Community Thanksgiving Service

This year's Crestview Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Sun, Nov 23** at Live Oak Baptist Church, [4565 Live Oak Church Rd, Crestview, FL 3253](#). This is such a meaningful way to celebrate our season of thankfulness, with our brothers & sisters in Christ. Please join us for this very

special evening of music and messages from local pastors and our mayor, JB Whitten.



Kids Street **Christmas Play Practice**



MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Sharing God's Love Through Giving

As we step into the season of Thanksgiving, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all the blessings God has given us. This November, we have a special opportunity to share His love by giving to those in need.

Wesleyan Child Care Center will be collecting **non-perishable food items** in support of our **Church's Benevolence Food Pantry**. These donations will help bring warmth and nourishment to families in our community during the Thanksgiving holiday—a time that can be especially difficult for some.

By filling the pantry shelves, we are not just giving food; we are offering hope, kindness, and a reminder of God's provision. Our prayer is that, through these simple gifts, families will feel the love of Jesus shining brightly in their lives.

We love serving our preschool families and church families. Together, we can help make this Thanksgiving a little brighter for someone else.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." – Hebrews 13:16

-Osa Bell / WCCC Director & Staff



Children's Ministry

We are so excited to be doing 2 Christmas events this year: a Christmas play AND our annual Gingerbread House party!

The play performance will be on **Wed, Dec 17**, at 6:00PM in the Crossroads Center. We are having play practices on Wednesdays at 6:00 on Kids Street. If your child is interested in participating in the play, it is not too late to join us for practices.



We will have a gingerbread house decorating party on **Sun, Dec 13**, in the morning from 9:45-11:00AM in the Crossroads Center Wesley Hall. This is a family event for parents to decorate a house with their child/children.

-Vicky Anchor

Winter Small Groups

Considering teaching our next batch of Small Group offerings? Classes will be from **Jan 28-April 15, 2025**. We have plenty of study material to choose from, or perhaps God has laid something else on your heart. We'd love to hear from you! Call Angie Arnold in the office, email her at firstcrestview@gmail.com or pop in and meet with her to get started!



Generosity Matters / Finance Committee

PRAISE: As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I want to pause and express my deepest gratitude for YOU, our church family. Because of your faithfulness in giving, we are making remarkable

progress toward eliminating debt and strengthening the ministries of our church. Every dollar you share becomes part of a much bigger story — one of lives being touched, prayers being answered, and God's Kingdom being built right here in Crestview.



FINANCIAL INSIGHTS:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -1 Thessalonians 5:18

As you gather around the table this month, consider ways to cultivate gratitude through your finances:

- Count your blessings, not just your bills. Make a family list of three things you're thankful for this year — one spiritual, one relational, and one financial. Gratitude changes perspective.
- Review your giving. As the year closes, reflect on how God has provided for your family. Is your giving a "first fruit" or an afterthought? Consider making tithing the first line of your 2026 *Prepare for year-end. November is a great month to revisit your household budget. Are you on track with savings goals? Do you have margin set aside for both Christmas giving and unexpected needs? Planning ahead keeps stress at bay and allows joy to flourish.
- If you are over age 70.5, you can use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) strategy to satisfy your Required Minimum Distributions. QCDs are the ONLY way to get money out of an IRA completely TAX FREE.

REMINDER: The Finance Committee finalizes the 2026 budget this month. Thank you to all ministry leaders who have submitted your requests and updates.

With a grateful heart,

Your Finance Committee Chairperson, Sara Fordyce

Soup Kitchen Ministry

THANK ALL OF YOU for continuing to support our Soup Kitchen to provide delicious homemade hot meals each Saturday. Each of your donations and support keep us sustainable coupled with the nonprofit donations of bread, pastries, and meat allow us to continue to meet our goal to provide healthy full meal choices for our community in need.



Sixteen years strong, feeding our community in need. If you happen to come by the Fellowship Hall (outside the building), check out the new signs that highlight the Soup Kitchen, day/time of food service to assist our community in need.

Those of you with fruit trees, please consider sharing your fruit abundance when harvested, we will include them in our weekly meals. Some of our community chicken farmers periodically share their eggs which make awesome

casseroles which are enjoyed by our hungry community in need.

With Fall/Winter around the corner, we'll be back to handing out socks and gloves which helps to keep people warmer while Yarnies share their labors of love with handmade hats again this Winter.

Thanksgiving and Christmas meals are already being planned by our Souper Chef Steve. These special holiday meals are planned to be served **22 Nov 2025 and 27 Dec 2025** for our community in need. All of you are welcome to volunteer during those events and share your donated handmade desserts with our community in need.

Are you curious as to why volunteers choose to support the Soup Kitchen Mission? There are many passages from the Bible. Here is one of them, Matthew 25:35 - "I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

Requesting your prayers of healing for our Soup Kitchen volunteers Kit, Bonnie, and Robert.

How to Support the Soup Kitchen

- Want to join us volunteering for the First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? We invite you to contact us at greenhalghdj@cox.net or text 401-742-4898.
- Want to donate fruit or eggs please place them in the Soup Kitchen refrigerator and text me at 401-742-4898. Want to donate socks or gloves please text me at 401-742-4898.
- Want to donate to First Methodist of Crestview Soup Kitchen Mission? Contact the office at 850-682-2018 with Soup Kitchen indicated on the envelope or NOTES section on your Sunday grace note.
- Please continue to Follow on Facebook @FirstCrestview or our website <https://FirstCrestview.com>

Respectfully,
Deb Lubas- First Methodist of Crestview SOUP Kitchen Coordinator, 401-742-4898

Matthew 25:35 - "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

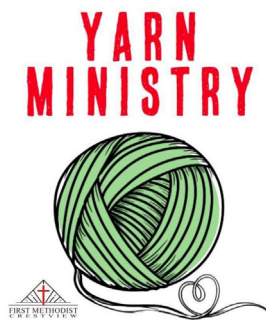
Yarn Ministry

November is always a big month for us Yarnies! We're obviously ramping up our holiday makes & donations, which we have quite a few. We'll be surpassing our 3,000 items made & donated very soon- WOW!!! Just enough for a **Yarn blessing on Sun, Nov 16.**

We also turn 11 years old this year! Our **Very Yarnie Birthday Party** will take place on **Tues, Nov 11** at 6:00PM. We always have loads of fun celebrating what God has done and through our ministry.

We'll also be meeting on **Tues, Nov 25, at 6:00PM** right before our Thanksgiving holiday. Our meeting place is Rm 213 aka Yarnia. We're looking forward to connecting & reaching out to others to further God's kingdom through loads of yarn and love.

-Cathrin Owens



"May the kindness of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

"We look for wool and linen, and work with our hands in delight." Proverbs 31:13

Crestview Prayer Network

Learn what is going on in the Crestview Christian community!

The Crestview Prayer Network meets the first Wednesday of each month to share fellowship and goings-on in the different churches in the North Okaloosa Area.

The next meeting for the Crestview Prayer Network will be **Nov 5** at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown.

Come pray for your hometown!



CALENDARS

November Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters

Nov 2- Kaleb & Lindsey Reynolds

Nov 9- Kit Callahan

Nov 16- Terry & Gail Laskaskie

Nov 23- Peg Harkness

Nov 30- Deb Watson

Ushers

John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1 & 3- Alesha Dabbs 2 & 4- Bob McCrory

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: 1. Jan Lee 2. John & Marcy Pennell 3. Haley Smith 4.

Keller family

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Kathy McKinley 2. Aimee Keller 3. Nell

Sutherland 4. Jody Woodward

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters & Side Aisles

11/2- Steve and Kathy Fowler

11/9- Phillip and Melanie Mathis

11/16- Connie Stapp and Glenda McMasters

11/23- Rollin and Corolla Anderson

11/30- Ed and Joanne Guzowski

Ushers

11/2- Tom Giovanini and Phillip Mathis

11/9- Eddie Hager and Burt Colt

11/16- Ed Guzowski and Tom Giovanini

11/23- Tom Saunders and Dax Reeves

11/30- Burt Colt and Dax Reeves

Office Door
11/2- 11/30 Jim Hight

Lights & Door Locks
11/2- Dax Reeves
11/9- Burt Colt
11/16- Eddie Hager
11/23- Dax Reeves
11/30- Burt Colt

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1.Thomas Raiche 2.Kathy McKinley 3. Matt Minyard 4. Sara Fordyce 5. Mike Steen

Important Dates In November

Nov 2- All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings Time ends
Charge Conf 5-6:30PM First Methodist DeFuniak Springs
Nov 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Youth Trivia Night 6:00PM
Nov 7- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC
Nov 9- Children's Ministry 12:15PM Kids St
Youth 12:00PM Conf Rm
Nov 10- 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Nov 11- Veteran's Day / Office closed
Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Nov 12- Youth Thanksgiving Celebration
Nov 15- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Nov 16- Stained Glass Auction #3 Begins / CRC
Yarn Blessing
Trustees 3:00PM FH
Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Nov 17- October Newsletter Deadline
Nov 19- CommUNITY Dinner / Benevolence Angel Tree Christmas Kick-Off
Stained Glass Auction #3 Wrap-Up
Winter Small Group Sign Up for January
Church Council 6:30PM CRC
Nov 23- Crestview Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00PM Live Oak Baptist
Nov 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Nov 26- No Youth
Nov 27- Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed.
Nov 30- First Sunday of Advent

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*
Please see firstcrestview.com calendar for any updates or changes

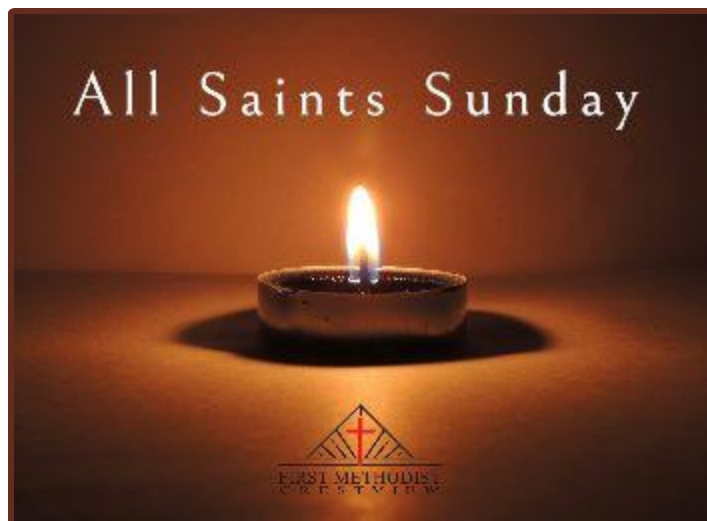
Looking Forward to December

Dec 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
Dec 5- Women's Service Group 10:00AM CRC
Dec 7- Crestview Community Choir Concert 3-4:30PM Main Sanctuary
Dec 8- FMC Christmas Party hosted by 8th Ave Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC
Dec 9- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm
Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213 (last one of the year!)

Dec 10- Youth Christmas 6:00PM Youth Rm
Dec 13- Kids St Gingerbread Event 9:45-11:00AM CRC
Dec 14- Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata 8:30 & 11:00AM Main Sanctuary
Dec 15- January Newsletter Deadline
Dec 16- Missions 6:30PM RM 213
Dec 17- Kids St Christmas Play 6:00PM CRC, No Youth Group
Dec 20- Game Night for Grown Ups 4:30-7:00PM CRC
Dec 24- Candlelight Christmas Eve Services 6:30 & 11:00PM Main Sanctuary
Dec 31- No Kids St or Youth Group
Dec 24 to Jan 4- Office Closed for Christmas Break

*FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room
Please see firstcrestview.com calendar for any updates or changes

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION



All Saints Liturgy For Sunday, Nov 2

Heavenly Father,
We bless your holy name for all of your servants who,
having finished their course,
now rest from their labors.
On this day, we give thanks and remember the following members
from our church who have moved to the Church Triumphant.

Robert Fagan
Bill Myers
Linda Vogt
Bob Winters

Ron Sanders
Sheldon Heinz
Doug Chandler
Barbara Winters
Darrell Smith
Maryrose Scott
Ginny Esmonde
Laura Pitts

Give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness
and faithfulness, to your honor and glory;
Father, We give you thanks for all the saints who ever worshiped you,
whether in arbors or cathedrals, wooden churches
or cement meeting houses or even catacombs.
We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
For voices lifted up to their king.
We give thanks for those around the world who are
martyrs and were killed for their faith.
Thank you for their courage.
We thank you, God, for hardworking saints, who served and
gave from a loving heart filled with faith-
believing their service made a difference.
We thank you for the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
Father in Heaven.....
this day we bless the memories of your saints.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith,
dedication, worship, and love.
In Jesus name we pray..
Amen

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH INFO

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Morning Glory at 8:30AM
Christ Chapel

The Well / Contemporary at 9:45AM
The Crossroads Center / FB Live

Traditions at 11:00AM
Main Sanctuary / FB Live

First Methodist Office Schedule

Mon - Thurs 9:00AM- 4:00PM
Staff Meetings Mondays 9:30-11:30AM
Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
Office Closure Tuesday, Nov 11 / Veteran's Day

First Methodist Staff Contacts

Staff:
Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden, drronbearden@hotmail.com
Associate Pastor - Kathy McKinley, fmcassociatepastor@gmail.com
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold, firstcrestview@gmail.com
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens, office.firstcrestview@gmail.com
Children's Ministry, kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com,
Youth Ministry - David Smith, firstcrestviewyouth@gmail.com
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward, fmfacilities599@gmail.com
Custodian - Jody Waddell, fmcustodian@gmail.com
Music, Contemporary - Rikki Ordinario
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk
Organist - Leon Curenton
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell /
Director, wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses:
Soup Kitchen- Deb Lubas, fmsoupkitchen@gmail.com
Women's Service Group- wsgcrestview@gmail.com
8th Avenue Methodist Men- David Ordoñez
8thavemethodistmen@gmail.com

First Methodist Church

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536, 850-682-8994
For all the latest from FMC please visit:
Website & calendar: firstcrestview.com
App store: FirstCrestview



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